

entered the active military, naval, or air service of the United States in order for such service to qualify as service during that period.

The signing of the cease-fire agreements and implementing protocols on January 27, 1973, between the United States of America and the Republic of Vietnam, on the one hand, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam on the other hand, has terminated active participation by the Armed Forces of the United States in the Vietnam conflict.

²⁴ UST 115, 1699.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 101(29) of Title 38 of the United States Code, do hereby proclaim, for the purposes of said Section 101(29), that May 7, 1975, is designated as the last day of the "Vietnam era."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4374

May 10, 1975

National Historic Preservation Week

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The state of today's world demonstrates the value of understanding and appreciating our origins and roots as a foundation for our present identity and our future hopes.

America's history lives throughout the Nation by the surviving examples of our man-made heritage—not only along the streets of our cities and towns but also in our rural areas. An indispensable element of the strength, the freedom and the constructive world leadership of this Nation is the

EDITORIAL NOTE: For the texts of the President's statement and letter to the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, dated May 7, 1975, concerning the eligibility period for benefits to Vietnam era veterans, see the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 11, pp. 498, 499).

knowledge and appreciation of our history, of who we are, where we are, and how we arrived here.

Loss of the essential evidence of our heritage in the name of progress continues to occur. However, the counteracting effect of the historic preservation effort is increasingly evident and effective in both the public and private sector. National Historic Preservation Week offers a timely opportunity to illustrate what has been done and what can be accomplished in the future to carry out our national resolve to preserve this heritage. This includes not only structures of national historic significance but, of equal importance, old homes, buildings, both commercial and industrial, hotels, taverns, theaters and railroad passenger stations. These can be recycled for contemporary private, public, cultural, commemorative and other uses.

Such uses of our historic man-made resources reflect our commitment to the enrichment of present and future generations of Americans, to preserve our historic past and to assure its enhancement and appreciation and to thus significantly contribute to the revitalization of rural, community and urban development.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, as requested by a joint resolution of Congress, do hereby proclaim the calendar week beginning May 12, 1975, as National Historic Preservation Week. I call upon Government agencies at all levels, interested private individuals, and concerned citizens to mark this observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD